

August 17, 2009

Media, Pa—Today, Congressman Sestak (PA-07) met with members of the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA) to discuss the importance of investing in infrastructure and making healthcare affordable for small businesses. The PRWA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to providing leadership in the management of systems responsible for providing safe drinking water and wastewater management.

“I want to thank George Crum, President of the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority in Aston Township, for inviting me to speak today,” Congressman Sestak said. “Protecting our water supply is an important initiative in my district and across the state, and one that the PA Rural Water Association has a crucial role in.”

The Congressman has been a strong supporter of protecting water systems, most recently with his vote for H.R. 1145, the Water Investment Act, which called for increased coordination between all levels of government in water research. He also supported the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, which included \$1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation for dams, canals, water treatment and conservation, and rural water projects.

“In addition to providing water management and supply companies with proper infrastructure,

ensuring that health care is affordable for their employees is important as well," the Congressman said. "Most of the state's water companies are small operations, and the proposed changes to the health care system will assist them in many ways. First, the house bill's proposed Health Care Exchange will allow small businesses to bargain for lower premiums than they currently have, and amendments to the bill plan to exempt small employers from the coverage mandate."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.